

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:EABINGTON

APPROVED BY NEA:EABINGTON

S/S:O:DLMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202808

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 21003 ACTION BEIRUT DAMASCUS AMMAN

CAIRO TEL AVIV JIDDA INFO SECSTATE 13 AUG 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 21003

STADIS

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF FSO TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON

BEGIN TEXT

1. EMBASSY BEIRUT SHOULD PROVIDE PRIME MINISTER KARAME
WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 16; OTHER
ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD PROVIDE SAME INFORMATION TO
APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN HOST GOVERNMENTS, ON SAME DAY IF
POSSIBLE.

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2. OWING TO THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON, A LONG

PERIOD HAS GONE BY WITHOUT DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN LEBANON. SECURITY CONDITIONS SIMPLY DO NOT PERMIT OUR PERSONNEL IN OUR EMBASSY IN WEST BEIRUT TO CROSS THE PRESENT CONFRONTATION LINE IN BEIRUT, WHICH IS WHERE AMBASSADOR MELOY, COUNSELOR WARING, AND THEIR DRIVER WERE ASSASSINATED.

3. FOR THESE REASONS AMBASSADOR SEELYE WAS UNABLE TO PASS THROUGH EAST BEIRUT DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS MISSION IN THE CITY. ON LEAVING LEBANON, WE WANTED HIM TO PROCEED AT ONCE TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS.

4. THEREFORE, WE HAVE DECIDED TO SEND A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, WITH PAST EXPERIENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS, INTO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH KEY LEBANESE PERSONALITIES THERE THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE LEBANESE SCENE AND TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS. THE OFFICER IS EDWARD P. DJEREJIAN, A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO IS PRESENTLY CONSUL GENERAL IN BORDEAUX, BUT WHO SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN BEIRUT AND SPEAKS FRENCH AND ARABIC.

5. DJEREJIAN WILL SPEND SEVERAL DAYS IN THIS AREA, AFTER WHICH WE EXPECT HIM TO LEAVE LEBANON TO REPORT ON HIS INITIAL DISCUSSIONS. WE EXPECT THEN THAT HE WOULD PROCEED AGAIN TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON FOR ANOTHER SHORT PERIOD, RETURN TO WASHINGTON, AND, AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, RETURN TO HIS POST IN BORDEAUX.

6. IT IS OBVIOUS, THEREFORE, THAT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT. DJEREJIAN IS NOT A SPECIAL EMISSARY. HE WILL NOT BE CARRYING ANY SPECIAL MESSAGE OR ANY PROPOSALS, ALTHOUGH HE WILL OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHED U.S. POSITION ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE LEBANESE PROBLEM. HE IS SIMPLY AUGMENTING, ON A VERY TEMPORARY BASIS, WHAT SHOULD BE THE NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT, IF SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMITTED, IN MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH ALL THE LEBANESE PARTIES.

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7. WE HOPE THAT SECURITY CONDITIONS WILL SOON IMPROVE TO THE POINT WHERE MORE REGULAR CONTACT BETWEEN OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT AND THE LEBANESE PARTIES, INCLUDING THOSE IN CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED AREAS OF LEBANON, WILL AGAIN BE POSSIBLE. IF SECURITY CONDITIONS REMAIN AS DIFFICULT AS THEY ARE NOW, WE MAY WANT TO SEND AN OFFICER IN AGAIN TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED AREAS FROM TIME TO TIME.

8. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL CONCERNED UNDERSTAND THAT
SENDING AN OFFICER TEMPORARILY TO A PART OF LEBANON
WHICH CANNOT NOW BE SAFELY REACHED BY OUR EMBASSY PERSONNEL
HAS NO REPEAT NO POLICY IMPLICATIONS. AS HAS BEEN
REGULARLY MADE CLEAR, THE U.S. IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO
PARTITION OR DE FACTO PARTITION AS A SOLUTION TO THE
LEBANESE PROBLEM. WE FIRMLY SUPPORT LEBANON'S
SOVEREIGNTY, ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ITS NATIONAL
COHESION AND UNITY.

9. ACTION ADDRESSEES OTHER THAN BEIRUT SHOULD ADD THE
FOLLOWING: WE PLAN TO KEEP YOUR GOVERNMENT INFORMED
OF THE RESULTS OF DJEREJIAN'S CONVERSATIONS.

10. IF THE QUESTION ARISES OF CHAMOUN'S ROLE AS FOREIGN
MINISTER, BUT ONLY IF IT DOES, BEIRUT SHOULD TELL KARAME,
AND OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES MAY INFORM APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS, THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY,
WITH AN ACTIVE CIVIL CONFLICT, NO EFFECTIVE COUNTRY-
WIDE AUTHORITY AND WIDESPREAD DISORDER, SEEMS TO MAKE MOOT
MOST QUESTIONS SUCH AS THIS. WE HAVE TAKEN NO POSITION
ON THE MATTER OF CHAMOUN'S APPOINTMENT BY FRANGIE.
THE FACT IS THAT CHAMOUN IS A PROMINENT CHRISTIAN LEADER
AND A FORMER PRESIDENT. AMERICANS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH
WITH HIM IN THE PAST. WE WOULD WANT ANY AMERICAN
OFFICIAL VISITING CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON TO SEE
HIM IN ANY EVENT.

END TEXT.

KISSINGER

UNQUOTE

ROBINSON

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